WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A console switch that selectively connects
a terminal to a port of an information processing
device that has a plurality of ports connected through
a network, the console switch comprising:
    a first unit that obtains port information from
the terminal, the port information specifying the port;
and
    a second unit that refers to a predetermined
database in accordance with the port information
obtained by the first unit, and establishes a
connection path between the terminal and the port of
the information processing device.

2.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a third unit that automatically
connects to each port of the information processing
device after activation.

3.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a fourth unit that, after activation,
obtains the MAC address and the IP address of the
information processing device, associate the MAC
address and the IP address of the information
processing device with the port information, and stores
the MAC address and the IP address associated with the
port information in the predetermined database.

4.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
wherein, when a connection path has not yet been
established between the terminal and the port of the
information processing device corresponding to the port
information obtained by the first unit, the second unit
detects the IP address from the MAC address of the
information processing device corresponding to the
obtained port information, and then establishes a

connection path between the terminal and the port of
the information processing device.

   5.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a fifth unit that outputs a message
to notify that a connection to the terminal has been
established, when a connection path between the
terminal and the port of the information processing
device has been established by the second unit.

   6.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the port information includes a port number
allocated to the port of the information processing
device, or a port name allocated to the port of the
information processing device.

   7.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the predetermined database is managed as a text
file.

   8.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a memory unit that stores
transmission and reception data generated between the
terminal and the port of the information processing
device.

   9.   The console switch as claimed in claim 8,
wherein the memory unit stores messages to be outputted
onto a screen of the terminal.

   10.   The console switch as claimed in claim 8,
wherein the memory unit stores data outputted from the
port of the information processing device.

   11.   The console switch as claimed in claim 8,
wherein the memory unit stores the transmission and
reception data in association with one of a date, a

terminal path, user information, and a server
connection path.

12.   The console switch as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a tuning button that exchange the
port information with a device connected to the network.

13.   A system comprising:
a terminal;
an information processing device that has a
plurality of ports; and
a console switch that is connected to and
interposed between the terminal and the information
processing device, and establishes a connection path
between the terminal and a port of the information
processing device,
the console switch comprising:
a first unit that obtains port information from
the terminal, the port information specifying the port;
and
a second unit that refers to a predetermined
database in accordance with the port information
obtained by the first unit, and establishes a
connection path between the terminal and the port of
the information processing device.

14.   The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein
the information processing device is cascade-connected.

15.   The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein
the console switch is bus-connected to the network.

16.   A system comprising:
a first console switch; and
a second console switch that is connected to the
first console switch through a network in such a manner
that the first console switch and the second console

switch face each other,

the first console switch and the second console switch each selectively connecting a terminal to a port of an information processing device that has a
5   plurality of ports connected through a network,

the first console switch and the second console switch each comprising:

a first unit that obtains port information from the terminal, the port information specifying the port;
10   and

a second unit that refers to a predetermined database in accordance with the port information obtained by the first unit, and establishes a connection path between the terminal and the port of
15   the information processing device.

17.   A method of selectively connecting a terminal to a port of an information processing device that has a plurality of ports connected through a
20   network,

the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining port information from the terminal, the port information specifying the port; and

referring to a predetermined database in
25   accordance with the obtained port information, and then establishing a connection path between the terminal and the port of the information processing device.

18.   The method as claimed in claim 17, further
30   comprising the step of performing automatic connection to each port of the information processing device after activation.

19.   The method as claimed in claim 17, further
35   comprising the step of, after activation, obtaining the MAC address and the IP address of the information processing device, and storing the MAC address and the

IP address of the information processing device in the predetermined database, the MAC address and the IP address being associated with the port information.

5   20.   The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein, when a connection path has not yet been established between the terminal and the port of the information processing device corresponding to the port information obtained in the port information obtaining step, the IP

10   address of the information processing device is detected from the MAC address of the information processing device corresponding to the obtained port information, and a connection path is then established between the terminal and the port of the information

15   processing device.

21.   The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the step of outputting a message to notify that a connection to the terminal has been established,

20   when a connection path between the terminal and the port of the information processing device has been established.

22.   The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein

25   the port information includes a port number allocated to the port of the information processing device, or a port name allocated to the port of the information processing device.

30   23.   The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the step of storing transmission and reception data generated between the terminal and the port of the information processing device.

35   24.   The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the step of exchanging the port information with a device connected to the network.

25.   A computer program product for causing a
computer to selectively connect a terminal to a port of
an information processing device that has a plurality
of ports connected through a network,
        the program comprising:
        instructions for obtaining port information from
the terminal, the port information specifying the port;
and
        instructions for referring to a predetermined
database in accordance with the obtained port
information, and then establishing a connection path
between the terminal and the port of the information
processing device.

26.   The computer program product as claimed in
claim 25, further comprising instructions for
performing automatic connection to each port of the
information processing device after activation.

27.   The computer program product as claimed in
claim 25, further comprising instructions for obtaining,
after activation, the MAC address and the IP address of
the information processing device, and then storing the
MAC address and the IP address of the information
processing device in the predetermined database, the
MAC address and the IP address being associated with
the port information.

28.   The computer program product as claimed in
claim 25, wherein, when a connection path has not yet
been established between the terminal and the port of
the information processing device corresponding to the
obtained port information, the IP address of the
information processing device is detected from the MAC
address of the information processing device
corresponding to the obtained port information, and

then a connection path is established between the
terminal and the port of the information processing
device.

5   29.   The computer program product as claimed in
claim 25, further comprising instructions for
outputting a message to notify that a connection to the
terminal has been established, when the connection path
between the terminal and the port of the information
10   processing device has been established.

30.   The computer program product as claimed in
claim 25, wherein the port information includes a port
number allocated to the port of the information
15   processing device, or a port name associated with the
port of the information processing device.

31.   The computer program product as claimed in
claim 25, further comprising instructions for storing
20   transmission and reception data generated between the
terminal and the port of the information transmission
device.

32.   The computer program product as claimed in
25   claim 25, further comprising instructions for
exchanging the port information with a device connected
to the network.